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LIST OF

SHOOSMITH AND SHOESMITH FAMILIES,

OR BRANCHES OF FAMILIES

BY

EDWARD SHOOSMITH

Holland, England
1936

LIST of SHOOSMITH and CHOESMITH FAMILIES,

or

BRANCHES of FAMILIES.

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I. Shoesmiths of Bexhill, Sussex, from 1526 and 1542, of Beckley Hastings, Hollington, Ninfield, Rye, Lydd and district, also perhaps those formerly of Eastbourne, one of whom changed the spelling of his name from Choesmith to Shoosmith between 1880 and 1891; also ? of Warehorne, Kent, in 1659. They appear to be Choesmiths and not Shoosmiths and are no relation to John Coppard Shoosmith of Bexhill, born 4 Septr. 1881, (Comber).

There are others of this name living at Meads, Eastbourne, see IX and X.

Some Choesmiths, ?formerly of Mayfield, were of Icklesham, Westfield and Mountfield, see XIV, distinct from this family, from whom perhaps descend the Choesmiths of Chicago, U.S.A. who were of Staplecross, a hamlet near Mountfield, Sussex.

II. Shoosmiths of Laughton, Sussex, from "29th Aprill 1605," from whom descend by tradition the Shoosmiths of Northampton through Stephen Shoosmith of Chesham, Bucks born 1758 (p.268, Vol.III. Comber's Genealogies) also those of Birmingham, Leatherhead in Surrey, Sutton Surrey (1) and ? of Plymouth;

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also definitely those of Buxton Derbyshire, Wallington Surrey and Leyton Essex; and possibly a family in Leeds Yorkshire. Ten generations of this family are shewn in Comber's Gens. Vol. III, p.p. 265 -275. They are possibly related to the Shoosmiths of Mayfield XIV and have the same christian names.

Except for the 'queried' branch at p.269 Comber, there are only two of this family left in Sussex, if we except also Harry Shoosmith of Hove, VIII (see later). There were Shoosmiths of Arundel descended from Brighthelmston and Laughton p.274 Comber. I have not traced them.

III. ? Shoosmiths of Duneden New Zealand appear to be a branch from Northampton and traditionally of Laughton.

Ditto Shoosmiths of Australia from Northampton.

IV. Shoosmiths of Cranleigh Surrey, origin unknown; perhaps descended from Arundel, otherwise from Hartfield in which latter case they have changed the spelling of their name from Shoesmith to Shoosmith. No reply was given to an enquiry ~~from~~ sent them.

V. Shoosmith of Sutton Surrey (2) Origin unknown; apparently no relation to the other Shoosmith of Sutton.

VI. Shoosmith of Cobham Surrey, Origin unknown; sent no reply to enquiry made.

VII. Shoesmith of Brighton "corn merchants," origin unknown, as they sent no reply to enquiry. They probably descend from

a village near Sevenoaks, Kent, where they occur with the same additional family name of 'Sears' in 1859; possibly formerly from Hartfield where is a family of 'Sears' in the Regrs., but this may be merely coincidence, (Kelly's Directory).

VIII. Shoesmith of Hove, Sussex, descended from Northampton and thus traditionally from Laughton, came recently from Blackheath, London.

IX & X. Other Shoesmiths of Brighton, Sussex, origin uncertain; possibly from the 'queried' Laughton branch at p.269 of Comber's Genealogies Vol.III. Ditto, Shoesmiths now of Lewes formerly of South Malling. Ditto, ? Shoesmiths of Meads, Eastbourne.

XI. Shoesmiths of Withyham, Hartfield, Sussex, Southborough, Cowden and Edenbridge, Kent, (and possibly also those of Crowborough and Rutley, Sussex, are an entirely separate family definitely descended from William Shoesmith of Burwash Sussex, and Mary Fry, Marr. Lic. 27 Aug. 1719 and no doubt formerly of Wadhurst, Sussex, recorded in those Regrs. from 1608 to 1669. They owned Little Parrock in Hartfield sold to ..... Fuller, also possibly Lywood's and North Clays, ? Nettlesworth owned by a nephew of John Fuller M.P.

XII. Shoesmiths of Speldhurst, Kent, and district; origin unknown, who say they are not related to those of Hartfield.

From them comes Shoesmith of Wisboro' Green, Sussex, and one each of Southboro' and Chelsea, London; had gt. uncle in Brighton.

XIII. Shoesmiths of West Sussex; Petworth, Kirdford, Graffham, West Thorney, Chichester and Aldingbourne; origin unknown. They say they were smugglers a century or so ago.

XIV. Shoosmiths of Mayfield, East Sussex, 1641-80 left apparently two descendants with issue, ? one at Icklesham 1696-7, of Westfield 1727 and the other ? at Mountfield Sussex 1767-82, ? descended from Roger Shosmythe of Pateley Bridge Yorkshire who settled in Frant, Sussex, between 1621 and 1629 and was buried at Frant 11 Septr. 1638, as Roger Shoosmith. He may perhaps be the ancestor of the Shoesmiths of Chicago, U.S.A., formerly of Staplecross, can be traced from 1580.

XV. Some Shoesmiths of Manchester are descended from Halifax, Yorks and others from Woodhouse, Leeds where, they say, they originated.

There is a tradition that James Shoosmith born at Brighthelmston 19 March 1783 (p.274 Comber) went into Yorkshire and settled in Leeds, where is recorded a James Shoosmith killed in the War, about 1917-18, with sister Sarah who may be still living.

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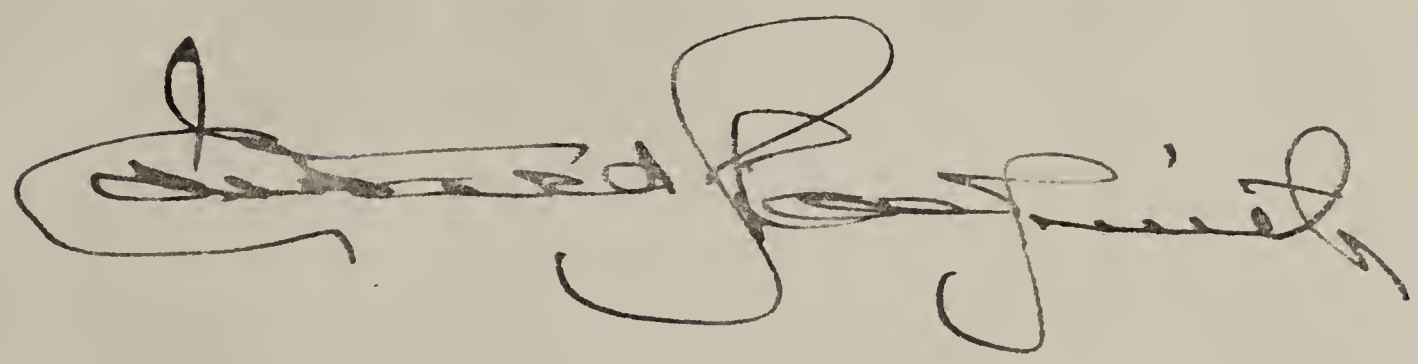
Origin of the race is given in Comber, p.265. This is independently corroborated from Plymouth from whence comes a statement that they were originally armourers to the Earls of Arundel, which has been proved by documentary evidence; ? from muniments at Arundel Castle.



Compiled by
Edward Heasmith
April 1936.

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